

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name: **Bethesda M.E. Church**

2. Planning Area/Site Number: **10/11**

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: **Map 2**
Coordinate **F-11**

4. Address: **Bethesda Church Road**
Browningsville

5. Classification Summary

Category building

Ownership private

Public Acquisition N/A

Status unoccupied

Accessible no

Present use unused

Previous Survey Recording MNCPPC

Title and Date: Inventory of Historical Sites, 1976

Federal State x County x Local

6. Date: **1871, 1907 & 1939** (additions)

7. Original Owner: **Trustees of Bethesda Church**

8. Apparent Condition

a. fair b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This 5 bay by 7 bay, 1½ story frame church faces northeast. It has fieldstone foundations and has recently been covered by textured aluminum siding clapboards. The church is composed of 2 parallel structures with a square corner tower above a porch between them. The tower is open at the first level, extends up a full 2 stories and has a flat roof. The modern clear triple-run lancet windows are grouped singly and in pairs.

This church has a cross gabled roof, with a total of five cross gables on the four elevations. The roof has pressed metal covering. There is a round window in each of these gable ends. The cornices are all boxed and returned. On the northwest elevation there is a five-sided, two story apse. There are two lancet windows set into the apse which has a cross gable roof.

10. Significance: The Church represents a rural Methodist congregation which dates back perhaps as early as 1808. The congregation came from Frederick as well as upper Montgomery County. By 1871 the old church was too small for the congregation; it was demolished and the current frame church constructed. The builder was probably John Mount, well known in the Damascus area.

The cemetery, which surrounds the church, grew throughout the years, small portions of land being added gradually as needed.

By 1965 the congregation had outgrown the 1871 church and the Trustees purchased 5 acres of land at the corner of Bethesda Church and Kemptown Roads on which to construct a new one.⁶ The old memorial windows were transferred to the new church, and it was dedicated in June 1978.

The congregation, which numbers over 375, plans to demolish the 1871 structure.

Candy Reed/Architectural Description

1. Researcher and date researched: **Eileen McGuckian May 1979**

12. Compiler: **Eileen McGuckian**

13. Date Compiled: **May 1979**

14. Designation Approval

15. Acreage: approx. 5000 sq. ft.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bethesda M. E. Church

AND/OR COMMON

Browningsville Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bethesda Church Road

CITY, TOWN

Damascus

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

xx VICINITY OF Browningsville

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
xx <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	xx <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	xx <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		xx <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER unused

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of Bethesda Methodist Church Telephone #: 253-2721 (Rev. Chance)

STREET & NUMBER

Bethesda Church Road

CITY, TOWN

Damascus

xx VICINITY OF Browningsville

STATE, zip code

Md. 20750

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3418

Folio #: 599

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M.10-11

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This five bay by seven bay, one and a half story frame church faces northeast on Bethesda Church Road. It is opposite a modern brick church building which serves the same congregation in an enlarged church structure.

The 1871 frame church has fieldstone foundations and has recently been covered by textured aluminum siding clapboards. The church is composed of two parallel structures; the northwest section is slightly forward from the southeast section. A corner tower has been built above the porch area between the northwest and southeast sections. This square frame tower is open at the first level. There is a concrete stoop and three steps beneath the tower. A stained glass tympanum window surmounts both the northeast and the southeast entrances to the porch. The tower extends up a full two stories and has a flat roof. A railing with decorative palings and square corner posts define the top of the tower. Each corner post has a turned finial. Northeast and southeast double wooden paneled doors lead from the porch into the church. Both doors are surmounted by horizontal stained glass transoms. There is a wooden paneled door on the northwest elevation with a stained glass transom. On the southeast elevation, near the south corner is a wooden paneled door surmounted by a gabled hood supported by angle braces.

The modern clear triple-hung lancet windows are grouped singly and in pairs.

This church has a cross gabled roof, with a total of five cross gables on the four elevations. The roof has pressed metal covering. There is a round window in each of these gable ends. The cornices are all boxed and returned. On the northwest elevation there is a five-sided, two story apse. There are two lancet windows set into the apse which has a cross gable roof.

The cemetery surrounds the old church on 3 sides.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			local history

SPECIFIC DATES 1871, (additions) 1907, 1939 BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Mount ?

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The three Browningsville Churches represent a rural Methodist congregation which dates back more than a century.

The earliest church, known as the Jimmy Day meeting house, may have been in existence as early as 1808; by 1865 it was known as the Bethesda Methodist Episcopal Church.¹ The congregation came from Frederick as well as upper Montgomery County, as the community of Browningsville is situated near the County line.

By 1871 the old church was too small for the congregation; it was demolished and the current frame church constructed.² The builder was probably John Mount, who was well known in the Damascus area.

In 1891 John D. Purdum, executor of the will of John L. Purdum, granted 96 square perches of land near the church lot to the Trustees of the Bethesda M.E. Church "to be held in trust by them for the rise of Bethesda M.E. Church as a burying ground."³ A comparison of surnames represented on the Board of Trustees at that time with present-day church members reflects the stability of the area -- Burdette, Browning, Walker, Hobbs, Purdum and Snyder. Another half acre was added to the burial ground in 1927.⁴

In 1922, John and Hattie Walker and Elizabeth Cutsaid deeded 4172 square feet in Browningsville to the Trustees "for the purpose of building a Hall thereon for the use and benefit of the members of Bethesda M.E. Church located near Browningsville, and Bethesda Lodge No. 184 I.O.G.T. located in Browningsville, Md. ...No dancing or card playing to be allowed in said Hall."⁵

By 1965 the congregation had outgrown the 1871 church and the Trustees purchased 5 acres of land at the corner of Bethesda Church and Kempton Roads on which to construct a new one.⁶ The old memorial windows were transferred to the new church, and it was dedicated in June 1978.

The congregation, which numbers over 375, plans to demolish the 1871 structure.

FOOTNOTES:

1 County Courier, March 30, 1977; Building appears on the Martinet & Bond Map of Montgomery County, 1865.

2 Information from Edna Linthicum, telephone interview, May 1979.

3 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., JA 27/101 (May 27, 1891).

4 Ibid., 428/165 (June 14, 1927).

5 Land Records, op. cit., 314/432 (May 8, 1922).

6 Ibid., 3418/599 (October 6, 1965).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland
 Maps: 1865 (Martinet and Bond); 1879 (Hopkins Atlas)
 Edna Linthicum, longtime worker at church, telephone interview, May, 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 5000 sq. ft.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Eileen McGuckian Candace Reed, Arch. Description 5/79

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails 926-4510

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87, Stronghold

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dickerson

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust~~
~~The Shaw-Walton State Circle~~
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~
~~(301) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
 Box 87, Stronghold
 Dickerson, Md. 20753
 (301) 926-4510

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Bethesda Methodist Church				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Bethesda Church Road & Kemptown Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Damascus				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Montgomery		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Trustees of Bethesda Methodist Church				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Damascus		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: None				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

M: 10-11

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is a frame structure now covered with aluminum siding. It is of cross-plan, with a porch tower between the north and east arms of the cross. The end of each arm is gabled, with a returned cornice; each gable end except the west has a round window. The north and south arms have double pointed arched windows flanked by lancets. The east arm has three pointed arched windows. The west (chancel) end is semi-hexagonal with lancet windows on the diagonal walls. The balustraded tower has round windows near the top; the arched doorway openings have stained glass tympanums.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1871 (cornerstone)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify), |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
M-NCPPC	22 Jan 74
STREET AND NUMBER:	
8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Silver Spring	Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:10-11

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated June 12, 1984

ACTION TAKEN

The following sites have been reviewed and found not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Those sites also listed on the Locational Atlas will no longer be subject to regulation under the Moratorium on Alteration and Demolition.

Site No.

10/2		23/70
10/9		23/98-1
10/11		24/12
10/22		24/14
10/25		24/15
10/54		25/1
10/71		25/10-1
10/73	15/68	27/5
	15/69	27/7
10/74	16/19	*27/11
11/8	*17/4	*27/13
12/14-1	17/55	28/15
12/16	18/1	28/26
12/26	18/9	30/3
	18/22	30/7
13/15	18/27	30/9
13/16	18/29-1	30/15
13/28	19/8	30/17
13/32	19/18	30/19
	19/20	31/9
14/1	20/6	33/3
14/15	20/14	33/5
14/18	20/27	33/11
14/19	22/5	*34/1
14/23	22/6-1	*34/9
14/30	22/18	
14/31	22/21	
14/40	22/22	
14/48	22/23	
14/54	22/24	
15/10	23/13	
15/11		
15/18		
*15/62		

Site No.

35/6
36/9
*37/4

*Recommended for designation by the Mont. Co. Historic Preservation Commission.

**These sites were previously considered by the County Council and found not to warrant regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. They are listed here to bring the functional Master Plan in conformance with Council's actions.

Bethesda Methodist Church

M:10-11

This site was removed from the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County and is not included in the Master Plan for the county. This determination was made by the Montgomery County Planning Board on June 17, 1982.



NAME BETHESDA METH. CH

M; #10-11

LOCATION RT. 122 BROWNSVILLE, Md

FACADE E

PHOTO TAKEN 1/22/74 M. DWYER



NAME BETHESDA METH CH

M; #10-11

LOCATION Rt. 122 BROWNSVILLE, Md

FACADE W

PHOTO TAKEN 1/22/74 M. DWYER



NAME BETHESDA METH. CH.

M: #10-11

LOCATION Rt 122 BROWNSVILLE, Md

FACADE E

PHOTO TAKEN 1/22/74 M. DWYER



NAME BETHESDA METH. CH.

M: #10-11

LOCATION Rt 122 BROWNINGSVILLE, MD

FACADE LOOKING S

PHOTO TAKEN 1/22/74 M. DWYER